

Excluded Providers

MaineCare strictly prohibits providers from employing, directly or indirectly, individuals or entities that have been excluded from participating in any state or federally funded programs. MaineCare and/or Medicare exclude people and companies who have been convicted of certain types of crimes or have been disciplined by their professional board for licensing violations.

Under federal regulations, MaineCare cannot pay for any item or service furnished, ordered, or prescribed by an excluded individual or company.

The MaineCare Provider/Supplier Agreement and the MaineCare Benefits Manual Chapter I, Section 1.03-3 W requires you to ensure that *“excluded individuals or entities are not employed or utilized to provide services, receive payments, or submit claims, to the MaineCare Program.”*

Who can be excluded?

An employee or a company can be excluded. The employee or company may or may not give direct care to MaineCare members. Some examples are

- nurses, technicians, or others who work for a hospital, nursing home, home health agency or physician practice;
- pharmacists or other staff who handle pharmacy billing or who are involved in any way in filling prescriptions;
- ambulance drivers, dispatchers and other employees involved in providing transportation;
- social workers employed by health care entities;
- administrator, billing agent, accountant, claims processor or utilization reviewer;
- a manufacturer or supplier.

How do I find out who is excluded?

You can check the Office of the Inspector General’s (OIG) list of excluded providers on-line at: <http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/exclusions.asp>. You can search by the person’s or company’s name and verify the match with a Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number. Be sure that you search for maiden names or aliases. MaineCare recommends checking the database regularly. If OIG lists a person or company as excluded, they are automatically excluded by MaineCare.

MaineCare excludes some providers that the OIG does not. To check whether a person has been excluded by MaineCare, please visit <http://portalxw.bisoex.state.me.us/oms/meex/meex.aspx> .

MaineCare’s database works similarly to the OIG’s site: you can search by name, and then verify the match with a Social Security or Employer Identification Number.

What if I find an employee or contractor on the excluded list?

First, verify your findings with the Division of Program Integrity by phoning (207) 287-4660.

Then you must either

- terminate the excluded employee or contractor, or
- have clear evidence that the employee's or contractor's work is not paid directly or indirectly by MaineCare and/or Medicare funds and the employee/contractor is not providing services to MaineCare or Medicare members.

Please also report the employee or contractor to the Division of Program Integrity at (207) 287-4660.

If you continue to employ an excluded person, your participation in MaineCare and payments from MaineCare will end immediately. MaineCare and/or Medicare can demand to be repaid for the excluded person's salary/wages, including fringe benefits. You may also face civil monetary penalties of up to \$15,000 per claim.

Who can answer more questions?

Feel free to contact the Division of Program Integrity at 207-287-4660 with questions.